

PRESS RELEASE

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Heritage Commission Releases New “Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places”

Hartsville – The WeGOJA Foundation acquired a grant and led the development of the 2020 update to the “[Teacher’s Guide to African American Historic Places](#),” a publication that offers curriculum-based lesson plans and activities associated with more than 300 historic sites across the state. Originally published in 2008 and revised in 2012 and 2015 under the authority of the SC African American Heritage Commission, the lessons in this edition are updated to the 2020 South Carolina College- and Career-ready standards for Social Studies. The guide also features a special section containing six new lessons associated with extant sites once advertised in the original Negro Motorist’s Green Book.

“There are so many opportunities in the classroom to teach African American history, in every historical era of our state, for every historical subject in the curriculum,” said Jannie Harriot, WeGOJA Executive Director and SCAAHC Chairwoman. “From Colonization and the Revolutionary War to Jim Crow and the Civil Rights movement, African Americans played pivotal roles in shaping South Carolina and the nation. You can’t tell the full story of our history without incorporating the African American story.”

Each listing of a historic site comes with a brief description, the time period for which it’s best associated and the curriculum standards it meets. Teaching activities by time period begin on page 113 of the guide, and lesson plans by time period begin on page 127.

The special section on the Green Book offers lesson plans and activities on Jim Crow and the Civil Rights eras, using extant sites like the Ebony Guest House in Florence, the Simmie Hiller Smith Tourist Home in Columbia and the William H. Smith Tourist Home in Greenville. All three advertised in the original Negro Motorists’ Green Book as welcoming establishments for traveling African Americans during the Jim Crow era, including noted musicians like Cab Calloway.

This 2020 edition is funded in part by the South Carolina Department of Archives and History, and is the product of a team of dedicated teachers representing grade levels K-12. The teachers are Dr. LaNora Foster, Wallace Foxworth, Steven Getz, Whitney Nicole Jones, Lee Ann Morris, Andrae Walker and Dontavius Williams. Curriculum coordinators Chanda Robinson and Frank Gause led the project.

Harriot and Dr. Larry Watson (Chairman of the Board for the WeGOJA Foundation, professor of history at SC State University and the University of South Carolina) were key contributors. Also coordinating were Alada Shinault-Small (former SCAAHC member,) and Dr. Ramon Jackson (African American Heritage Coordinator at the Department of Archives and History.)

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